GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5901
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY MINISTERS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are downsizing various departments and offices in order to curtail its expenditure, whereas many of his colleagues in the Council of Ministers are continuing to have services of personal staff and vehicles both on formal and informal basis beyond their entitlement;

(b) if so, whether he has impressed upon his colleagues to manage their affairs within their entitlement and observe economy;

(c) the excess expenditure incurred by Ministers on entertainment, salaries of both formal and informal personal staff, separately, TA and DA, telephones and vehicles during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (upto Jun

(e); and

(d) the level of expenditure on above likely to be brought down in 2001-02 as compared to last year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a)to(d) : Optimizing the Government workforce with a view to economising on non-plan expenditure and improving efficiency is a continuous process and guidelines thereon are issued from time to time. The Prime Minister in his letter dated 23.9.2000 addressed to all the Ministers, had urged them to comply with existing guidelines of austerity, drawing their special reference to the need for observing the existing entitlement of use of official car, official hospitality, entitlement of the scale of the personal staff, foreign travel, telephones, etc. However, no centralised and separate data is maintained on individual items of expenditure in the offices of various Ministers.